

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

The present application was originally filed with claims 1 through 27. Claims 25 through 27 are canceled above without prejudice pursuant to the restriction requirement, leaving Claims 1 through 24 pending in the case.

THE OBVIOUSNESS-TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 through 24 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,379,728. Submitted herewith is a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejection. In light of this disclaimer, the Applicant submits that Claims 1 through 24 are not objectionable under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting and are entitled to allowance.

CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1 through 24.

If the Examiner should feel that any issue remains as to the allowability of these claims, or that a conference might expedite allowance of the claims, he is asked to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, (Fax No. 703-872-9306 on June 8, 2004

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